



March 6, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly  
Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Attention: Committee Co-Chairs Senator Beth Bye and Representative Toni Walker

Subject: **HB-6824 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE**

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) provides municipal water services to the residents, businesses, and community facilities in the City of Norwich and portions of the neighboring towns of Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon, Lisbon, Montville, Preston, and the Mohegan Tribal Nation.

NPU has been an active participant in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program for many years and currently has four active construction projects and four active projects in design totaling more than \$17,000,000.

Each of these projects are investments in NPU's water infrastructure and critical components of our efforts to continue providing suitable quantities of high quality drinking water to a population of more than 42,000 residents and business of eastern Connecticut. Norwich is also part of a consortium of public water suppliers in southeastern Connecticut that have an intra-regional water supply response plan to address vulnerabilities in the region and provide critical supply redundancies.

Like NPU, the communities of Southeastern Connecticut heavily rely upon the funding from the DWSRF program and other sources of funding from the State, such as those made available through Public Act 14-98, which provides up to fifty million dollars to the Department of Public Health for eligible drinking water projects.

This funding provides public water systems like NPU that serve more than ten thousand persons up to thirty percent grant-in-aid of eligible project costs. Of the more than \$17M active projects NPU has within the DWSRF program, this would equate to more than \$3.8M that would

not have to be assumed by the taxpayers of Norwich and the small communities within our system.

Just as our state's transportation infrastructure will support our economic growth, Connecticut's water utilities must be able to provide the necessary quantities and quality of public water to its residents and businesses. Developers consistently look at public utilities as a "make or break" consideration when evaluating real estate and development opportunities.

We strongly encourage the Governor, the State Bond Commission and the General Assembly to continue funding initiatives such as those in PA 14-98 and the DWSRF as essential investments in Connecticut's drinking water infrastructure. .

Respectfully

Chris LaRose  
Acting General Manager  
Norwich Public Utilities